

Govt to announce women dev policy soon: CA

'Citizenship Act' almost finalised

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government would announce a women development policy soon to ensure gender equality in society.

"The idea of equality of men and women will be reflected in the policy in line with the constitution, UN Convention on Elimination of all sorts of Discrimination against Women and Beijing working plan," he said.

He also informed that the government has almost finalised the formulation of the 'Citizenship Act' aiming to ensure equal rights for all citizens in the country.

The chief adviser made the disclosure while inaugurating the three-day 11th National Conference 2008 of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city. The theme of the conference is 'Equality Needs Equal Opportunity'.

Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Ingeborg Stofring and Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam also spoke at the inaugural session presided over by Mahila Parishad President Hena Das.

Law Adviser AF Hassan Arif, special assistants to the chief adviser, councillors of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad from 58 districts

and distinguished personalities were present at the function.

The head of the caretaker government called upon all to build a social movement to reduce gender disparity and preventing domestic violence alongside legal process.

He expressed his belief that overall reforms are necessary in electoral process and in socio-economic and political culture for equal partnership of the womenfolk governing the state.

Listing various successes and valuable contribution of the women community in national life and socio-economic sector, he said even then, it is needless to say that women become victim regularly in various areas of national life.

He lamented that the constitutionally recognised equal rights of men and women are not reflected largely in practical life.

He expressed firm optimism that someday the dream of Begum Rokeya in 'women awakening' would be materialised in her homeland. He termed her pioneer of women movement in the subcontinent and hoped that her dream might come true sooner.

He thanked Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, formed under the leadership of poet Sufia Kamal, a successor to Begum Rokeya, for playing a significant role in national life in ensuring women's rights for the last 37 years.

She hoped that the present caretaker government would start the process for the trial of war criminals.

The finance department has provided them with broadband Internet connection and the computers for the campaign.

"It is a part of our social responsibility. If we find our students interested in doing something which would have positive impact, I feel, we should help them," said Prof Mahmood Osman Imam, chairman of the finance department.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism is also encouraging the students to continue their campaign.

"If we can hold our position at the top of the seven natural wonders, it will also boost tourism sector. We are planning a countrywide campaign for this," said Ziaur Rahman Khan, deputy secretary to the ministry, over telephone while he was on the way to the University campus to join the campaign yesterday.

The history of liberation war along with geographical descriptions of the respective areas has been depicted in the seven volumes -- the first part covering Chittagong region, Comilla region placed in second part, Dhaka in third, Mymensingh in fourth part, Rangpur in fifth, Bogra in sixth and

Bogra in seventh part.

A total of 1,234 small and big battles and coloured map of 280 war places have been incorporated into the 4,552-page book.

Asia Publications on behalf of the education department of the Army Headquarters published the book.

The price of one-set book is Tk 4,575.

The chief adviser thanked Bangladesh Army for doing this important job, saying that the book would help future generations know about the real history of the War of Liberation.

Researchers would also find this book useful, he hoped.

The army chief presented a set of the book to the chief adviser.

Secretary to the CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munain, DG SSF Maj Gen Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, Military Secretary to the CA Birg Gen Amin Tarique and Director of Military Education Department Brig Gen AKM Rezaul Karim were also present.

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